

Whereas trade-based money laundering includes other offenses such as tax evasion, disruption of markets, profit loss for businesses, and corruption of government officials, and constitutes a persistent threat to the economy and security of the United States;

Whereas trade-based money laundering can result in the decreased collection of customs duties as a result of the undervaluation of imports and fraudulent cargo manifests;

Whereas trade-based money laundering can decrease tax revenue collected as a result of the sale of underpriced goods in the marketplace;

Whereas trade-based money laundering is one mechanism by which counterfeiters infiltrate supply chains, threatening the quality and safety of consumer, industrial, and military products;

Whereas drug trafficking organizations collaborate with Chinese criminal networks to launder profits from drug trafficking through Chinese messaging applications;

Whereas on March 16, 2021, the Commander of the United States Southern Command, Admiral Fallor, testified to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that transnational criminal organizations “market in drugs and people and guns and illegal mining, and one of the prime sources that underwrites their efforts is Chinese money-laundering”;

Whereas the deaths and violence associated with drug traffickers, the financing of terrorist organizations and other violent non-state actors, and the adulteration of supply chains with counterfeit goods showcase the danger trade-based money laundering poses to the United States;

Whereas trade-based money laundering undermines national security and the rule of law in countries where it takes place;

Whereas illicit profits for transnational criminal organizations and other criminal organizations can lead to instability globally;

Whereas the United States is facing a drug use and overdose epidemic, as well as an increase in consumption of synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine and fentanyl, which is often enabled by Chinese money laundering organizations operating in coordination with drug-trafficking organizations and transnational criminal organizations in the Western Hemisphere that use trade-based money laundering to disguise the proceeds of drug trafficking;

Whereas the presence of drug traffickers in the United States and their intrinsic connection to international threat networks, as well as the use of licit trade to further their motives, is a national security concern;

Whereas drug-trafficking organizations frequently use the trade-based money laundering scheme known as the “Black Market Peso Exchange” to move their ill-gotten gains out of the United States and into Central and South America;

Whereas United States ports and U.S. Customs and Border Protection do not have the capacity to properly examine the 60,000,000 shipping containers that pass through United States ports annually, with only 2 to 5 percent of that cargo actively inspected;

Whereas trade-based money laundering can only be combated effectively if the intelligence community, law enforcement agencies, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the private sector work together;

Whereas drug-trafficking organizations, terrorist organizations, and other transnational criminal organizations disguise the proceeds of their illegal activities behind sophisticated mechanisms that oper-

ate seamlessly between licit and illicit trade and financial transactions, making it almost impossible to address without international cooperation; and

Whereas the United States has established Trade Transparency Units with 18 partner countries, including with major drug-producing and transit countries, to facilitate the increased exchange of import-export data to combat trade-based money laundering; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the activities of transnational criminal organizations and their networks, and the means by which such organizations and networks move and launder their ill-gotten gains, such as through the use of illicit economies, illicit trade, and trade-based money laundering, pose a threat to the national interests and national security of the United States and allies and partners of the United States around the world;

(2) in addition to considering the countering of illicit economies, illicit trade, and trade-based money laundering as a national priority and committing to detect, address, and prevent such activities, the President should—

(A) continue to assess, in the periodic national risk assessments on money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing conducted by the Department of the Treasury, the ongoing risks of trade-based money laundering;

(B) finalize the assessment described in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2020 (division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-93)), which directs the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury to thoroughly assess the risk that trade-based money laundering and other forms of illicit finance pose to national security;

(C) work expeditiously to develop, finalize, and execute a strategy, as described in section 6506 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (title LXV of division F of Public Law 116-283; 134 Stat. 4631), drawing on the multiple instruments of United States national power available, to counter—

(i) the activities of transnational criminal organizations, including illicit trade and trade-based money laundering; and

(ii) the illicit economies such organizations operate in;

(D) coordinate with international partners to implement that strategy, exhorting those partners to strengthen their approaches to combating transnational criminal organizations; and

(E) review that strategy on a biennial basis and improve it as needed in order to most effectively address illicit economies, illicit trade, and trade-based money laundering by exploring the use of emerging technologies and other new avenues for interrupting and putting an end to those activities; and

(3) the Trade Transparency Unit program of the Department of Homeland Security should take steps to strengthen its work, including in countries that the Department of State has identified as major money laundering jurisdictions under section 489 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h).

SENATE RESOLUTION 611—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT) CONTINUES TO MAKE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SEEK A SUCCESSFUL NINTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 611

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) opened for signature 53 years ago on July 1, 1968, and entered into force in 1970;

Whereas the NPT is a cornerstone of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime and has grown to include 191 States Parties;

Whereas the United States remains committed to upholding the three pillars of the NPT, which include—

- (1) non-proliferation;
- (2) disarmament; and
- (3) the peaceful use of nuclear energy;

Whereas Article III of the NPT obligates each nonnuclear weapon state to the NPT to conclude a Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify treaty compliance, 174 of which are Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements crafted to detect the diversion of nuclear materials from peaceful to non-peaceful uses;

Whereas the IAEA strengthens the global nuclear and security framework and helps promote international nuclear cooperation, and IAEA safeguards are a requirement for United States bilateral nuclear cooperation;

Whereas the United States was the first country to conclude a safeguards agreement with the IAEA;

Whereas the 2018 Department of Defense Nuclear Posture Review affirms, “The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. It plays a positive role in building consensus for non-proliferation and enhances international efforts to impose costs on those that would pursue nuclear weapons outside the Treaty.”;

Whereas the success of the NPT has and will continue to depend upon the full implementation by all States Parties of the NPT’s three mutually reinforcing pillars;

Whereas, over the past half century, the United States has exhibited leadership in strengthening each of the NPT’s three pillars for the global good, including—

(1) reducing its nuclear weapons stockpile by 88 percent from its maximum in 1967 of 31,225 in parallel with equally massive reductions of the Russian Federation’s stockpile through bilateral coordination;

(2) cooperating with former Soviet states to facilitate the surrender of nuclear weapons on their soil after the fall of the Soviet Union;

(3) providing voluntary contributions to the IAEA to promote peaceful nuclear activities exceeding \$378,000,000 since 2010, including activities that help in the treatment of cancer and other life-saving applications; and

(4) extending deterrence to United States allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Australia, which is an unmistakable demonstration of the United States commitment to collective security;

Whereas the United States calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with its obligations under the NPT, which it ratified in 1970, abide by its 1974 comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA, and fully and permanently implement the Additional Protocol to its IAEA safeguards agreement in refraining to obtain or produce nuclear weapons;

Whereas heightened geopolitical tensions in recent years have made cooperation on nonproliferation and arms control issues with the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China more challenging;

Whereas recent harmful actions by the Government of the Russian Federation have led to a further deterioration in bilateral relations with the United States, including Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea, its 2014 invasion of Eastern Ukraine, and its 2022 invasion into all of Ukraine, its brazen interference in the 2016 and 2020 United States presidential elections, its violation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the "INF Treaty"), its use of chemical nerve agents in assassination attempts in the United Kingdom and against Aleksei A. Navalny, and its destabilizing actions in Syria;

Whereas concerning actions by the People's Republic of China have also strained bilateral relations with the United States, including a sustained build-up of nuclear forces, threatening military activities toward Taiwan, and the transfer by Chinese entities of proliferation and missile technology transfers to states such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Pakistan;

Whereas, despite these challenges, the United States remains committed to a stable strategic relationship with the Governments of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China and especially in the field of nonproliferation and arms control;

Whereas United States efforts to reduce dangers associated with nuclear arsenals through ambitious arms control agreements with both the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China would advance United States and global security, adding to the benefits of stability and transparency provided by existing agreements;

Whereas President Joseph R. Biden's decision to extend the New START Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation for five years places verifiable legally-binding limits on Russian ICBMs, SLBMs, and heavy bombers until February 5, 2026;

Whereas the Bilateral Consultative Commission (BCC) continues to be the appropriate forum for the Parties to engage constructively on any New START Treaty implementation issues that arise;

Whereas the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the NPT will take place in August of 2022 in New York, having been rescheduled due to restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the Ninth Review Conference presents an opportunity to refocus States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the danger that the spread of nuclear weapons poses, to discuss potential ways to deal with countries that continue to pose a nuclear security threat,

and to find common solutions so as to further reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world and enable increased use of nuclear energy while improving safeguards to ensure that illicit nuclear programs are not occurring; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to encourage all States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to comply fully with the terms and the spirit of the Treaty;

(2) the United States should—

(A) maintain support for the IAEA through its assessed and voluntary contributions and seek to pay its dues at the beginning of the IAEA's fiscal year and through advocating for all countries to enter into the Additional Protocols with the IAEA;

(B) pursue a verifiable and comprehensive arms control agreement with the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China to capture strategic and nonstrategic nuclear weapons capabilities, which would enhance United States and global security by building upon other treaties, agreements, and transparency measures that reduce nuclear risk;

(C) continue to encourage opportunities with other nuclear weapon possessing states to reduce the reliance upon, role, and number of nuclear weapons in their national military strategies; and

(D) advance critical United States security partnerships like the one among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (commonly known as "AUKUS") consistent with IAEA safeguards, to provide Australia with naval nuclear propulsion technology to better deter against military aggression in the Indo-Pacific; and

(3) the President is encouraged to work with other States Parties to the NPT to strengthen compliance and enforcement mechanisms and develop collective responses in the United Nations Security Council and in any other relevant multilateral fora to any notification of withdrawal from the Treaty.

SENATE RESOLUTION 612—RECOGNIZING WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES FOR NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

S. RES. 612

Whereas the United States proudly recognizes small businesses as the backbone of the economy and acknowledges the impactful contributions of women entrepreneurs throughout the United States who are pushing small businesses to succeed;

Whereas, because female professionals, leaders, and small business owners play a vital role in the economy of the United States, when the United States empowers women, it empowers the entire economy;

Whereas women entrepreneurs provide critical goods and services, create high-paying jobs, build stronger supply chains for the United States, and play an integral role in Federal contracting and procurement;

Whereas women small business owners are key job creators and employers that are building a legacy for the next generation of businesswomen;

Whereas, according to the 2019 Annual Business Survey conducted by the Census

Bureau, women-owned businesses employed more than 10,000,000 workers and accumulated \$1,800,000,000,000 in receipts;

Whereas women-owned businesses make up more than 20 percent of all employer firms in the United States;

Whereas the vast majority of all women-owned businesses are classified as small businesses;

Whereas National Small Business Week takes place from May 1 to May 7, 2022, and recognizes the critical contributions of the entrepreneurs and small business owners of the United States; and

Whereas women-owned small businesses should be celebrated for their accomplishments and contributions during National Small Business Week; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the important role women-owned small businesses have in the economy of the United States; and

(2) commits to supporting women-owned small businesses by recognizing those businesses during National Small Business Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 613—PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2022, WHICH INCLUDE BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FACED BY MINORITY POPULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUCH AS AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, ASIAN AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 613

Whereas the origin of National Minority Health Month is National Negro Health Week, established in 1915 by Dr. Booker T. Washington;

Whereas the theme for National Minority Health Month in 2022 is "Give Your Community a Boost!";

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has set goals and strategies to enhance and protect the health and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas a study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, entitled "The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States", concluded that, between 2003 and 2006, the combined cost of health inequalities and premature death in the United States was \$1,240,000,000,000;

Whereas African American women were as likely to have been diagnosed with breast cancer as non-Hispanic White women, but African American women were 41 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than non-Hispanic White women between 2015 and 2019;

Whereas African American women were twice as likely to be diagnosed with and 2.2 times more likely to die of stomach cancer than non-Hispanic White women;